[4th December 1947

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" (a) to (c) Attention is invited to the paper[a] placed on the table of the House."

Scales of pay of Inspector of Boilers.

* 157 Q.—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have increased the scales of pay of the Inspector of Boilers from **Rs.** 250—600 to Rs. 280—700;

(b) whether the benefit of one increment given to the entrants has been given to existing men;

(c) whether there was any attempt by officers to go out on a higher salary and whether any one was not permitted due to dearth of hands; and

(d) whether there has been consistently scarcity of specialized hands in the department for the past three years?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON (on behalf of Hon. Minister for Public Works):—" (a) Yes.

" (b) No.

" (c) One officer applied for appointment in another province but the application was not forwarded on administrative grounds.

" (d) Some difficulty has been felt, but with the increase in the scale of pay of Inspectors it is hoped that suitable candidates will be forthcoming."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—" Arising out of the answer to clause (c), may I know whether it is the policy of this Government not to forward applications for appointments elsewhere, even though the emoluments there are higher than what the applicants are getting here? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—" It depends upon the exigencies of service here."

Reservation of front seats in buses to the Police.

* 158 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) whether any complaint has been received that on 16th May 1947 at 8-30 p.m. the bus No. MDH 693 A.T. Madras running from Ennore to Madras had both the front seats reserved for the police;

(b) whether it is a fact that two gentlemen who boarded the front seat were objected to by the driver and conductor on the plea that they were reserved for the police;

(c) whether such a practice exists in bus services of reserving seats for police when traffic congestion is so great on the route; and

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a Printed as Appendix III on pages 40–41 infra.

(*d*) whether the Government propose to issue instructions to the bus services and to the police to discontinue the practice of reserving seats for the police?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) Only the driver is said to have objected to the two gentlemen occupying the front seats on the ground that they had been reserved for the police.

" (*c*) No such general practice can be said to exist.

" (*d*) Government have issued a Press Note[a] giving necessary directions in the matter."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" On a point of information, Sir. I remember to have read in the papers that a similar question but with regard to another bus service has been raised on the floor of the Assembly. If there is any case pending in the court, I am afraid the giving out of the answer may prejudice the case. If no case is pending, I don't have any objection."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" No case is pending in the court, nor is the matter likely to go before any court. May I know the exact nature of the directions and whether the bus service has been instructed not to reserve seats for the police? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" The directions are contained in the press note which has been published and which *inter alia* says :

The present position, therefore, is that no special preference can be claimed in respect of any particular seat in a bus, by any Government official including a touring official of the Police, Revenue or any other department. Any instance of discrimination by the driver or the conductor in favour of a Government official should be brought to the notice of the Regional Transport Officer concerned."

Inclusion of Conjeeveram town in the Prohibition area.

* 159 *Q.*—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Conjeeveram town being in the vicinity of the North Arcot district has been included in the Prohibition area from the 1st of October;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that all the toddy shops in Conjeeveram town have been ordered to be closed;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the arrack shops have not been ordered to be closed;

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a Printed as Appendix IV on page 41 infra.